(c) whether there is any plan to augment this Coastal Shipping Service Fleet; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to make this an efficient service, providing better passenger amenities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Out of two ships engaged in this service, one ship has been temporarily withdrawn with effect from end of January, 1988.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and(d) There is no firm plan to augment this service.

Indira Gandhi National Open University

*140. SHRI M. KADHARSHA:

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indira Gandhi National Open University propose to offer under-graduate courses of study only next year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that so far only a search is going on for finding out need based courses which the University can offer; and

(c) if so, what are the long-term and short-term courses which have already been started and are going to be started in the course of the coming academic year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University, the under-graduate courses would commence in August, 1988. The University has started 2 Diploma programmes, one in Management and the other in Distance Education, which are in progress since January, 1987. A new Diploma programme in Creative Writing and a Certificate Course in Rural Development have since been added. A preparatory programme for those who have no formal qualifications, has also commenced from January, 1988. Those who successfully complete this course will be eligible for admission to B.A./B.Com; course to which admission would be made in July-August 1988. Other programmes proposed by the University include Diploma programmes in Computer Education, Library Science, Tribal Education, and Women's Education besides continuing education programmes for Defence Services Officers, teachers, etc.

Constitution of State welfare Advisory Boards

@875. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of State Welfare Advisory Boards which are without Chairman at present;

(b) the reasons for not filling these vacancies; and

(c) the number of proposals of State Government pending with the Government for finalising the appointment of the Chairman of these State Welfare Advisory Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Two State Welfare Advisory Boards are without Chairman.

(b) State Government's proposals/notification are awaited by the Central Social Welfare Board.

@Previously Unstarred Question 504 transferred from the 26th February, 1988.

(c) No proposal of the State Government is pending with the Central Social Welfare Board. Proposal for future reconstitution are under correspondence with a few states.

Advertisement on Television about condoms at prime time

@876. SHRI PRITHIBHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether advertisement showing condoms for the purpose of Family Planning are being shown to Doordarshan at prime time, when a majority of viewers are small children;

(b) whether Government are aware that such advertisement create a very embarassing situation for parents and elders when children ask about the use of such condoms;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to telecast such advertisement during the late night programmes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Spots on Family Welfare are being shown by Doordarshan at prime time. Spot on Nirodh is shown once a month at 9 00 PM and once a month between 7.30 and 8.30 PM. Earlier from October 21 to December 31, 1987 a few TV spots giving information on methods including one spot on Nirodh were telecast by rotation at around 10.20 PM. No survey has indicated that at evening prime time the majority of viewers are small children.

(b) Children in our modern society are exposed to various messages that could be considered awkward for their age, including family planning information, from various sources besides mass media. However, in the circumstances, parents and elders are the best persons to deal appropriately with the curiosity of their children in a way that the younger generation develop wholesome attitudes. A Doordarshan audience research survey was carried out in the last week of November, 1987. It indicated that almost half of the respondents, (145 out of 300), suggested telecast of these spots just before the news to increase the reach. Only 45 out of 300, or 15 per cent, found the telecast embarrassing.

(c) Telecast of family welfare messages during late hour programmes defeats the very objective of using this medium to put out information on family planning methods.

(d) While there is near universal awareness about family planning, awareness and knowledge of spacing methods is much lower. Adoption of spacing methods, vital for the health and welfare of the mother and child is very low. Out of the 37.5 per cent couples effectively protected by various methods, only 3.7 per cent of the couples are effectively protected by conventional contraceptives The percentage of couples having one or no child is 36.2 per cent. Promotion of child spacing is a major health and demographic priority. TV has been identified as a powerful medium to disseminate information and target audiences have therefore to be reached at prime time.

Greater autonomy to the international Airports Authority of India

877. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state·

(a) whether the International Airports Authority of India has made a proposal for greater autonomy in its working; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major specific suggestions received from I.A.A.I. are as follows:—

(i) I.A.A.I. should be converted into a Company under the Companies Act.

@Previously Unstarred Question 410, transferred from the 26th February, 1988.